MONTEREY NEWS

June 2007
VOLUME XXXVII · Number 6

Annual Town Meeting

The general tenor of the May 5th Annual Town Meeting was that of neighborly discussion and respect for differing views. The Warrant consisted of approximately 108 budget line items and 27 other articles. The meeting began with a moment of silence in memory of Anne Marie Makuc, valued librarian and mother of several highly esteemed citizens of Monterey.

Following the usual procedure, Moderator Mark Makuc read the 108 budget line items and those with questions about a particular line item requested a "hold" on it for discussion. A hold was put on the line item for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) proposed operating budget, which is close to a million dollars at $990,795. Select Board member Jon Sylbert explained the current drama being played out in Sheffield regarding the school budget. In short, in 2001 the five towns of the SBRSD agreed to an alternative method of the apportionment of the school budget instead of the statutory method outlined by the commonwealth. That agreement was supposed to be good for nine years. In 2006 the Department of Education (DOE) issued new guidelines for towns using an alternate method of apportionment. According to the Select Board the DOE did not formally notify the towns about these new guidelines, but did begin holding workshops in January 2007 with school districts to educate them about the new guidelines. Part of the guidelines state that school districts using an alternate method of apportionment (instead of the statutory one) must vote unanimously on that method every year.

In April, the Select Board and Finance Committee of Sheffield, the largest of the five towns in the SBRSD, decided that the new guidelines from the DOE should be immediately implemented, meaning Sheffield would withdraw from the existing apportionment agreement, though such a move would have to be approved by the Sheffield Annual Town Meeting. Such a move would reduce Sheffield's share of the school budget, while increasing the shares of Monterey, New Marlborough, and Egremont (Alford's would be basically unchanged). By this time—less than four weeks before the town meetings—the budget process and contract negotiations had already been hammered out over the preceding four months. Sylbert explained that it was unclear what the vote at the upcoming Sheffield Town Meeting would be, but that it was very possible that there would have to be a Monterey Special Town Meeting to appropriate additional money to fund the school budget if Sheffield did withdraw from the existing agreement.

Maggie Leonard

Voting on funding the salt shed at May 5th Town Meeting.

Citizens had several questions about both the SBRSD and the budget. Ozzie Dugan asked if Monterey should consider leaving the SBRSD. Sylbert said, "No, it's a wonderful school district, but the tax burden would definitely go up." Sylbert went on to explain that Great Barrington spends approximately $20,000 per pupil compared to approximately $12,000 per pupil in Southern Berkshire. June Thomas asked how many students attend Southern Berkshire Regional schools and was told 46 or 48. Thomas then pointed out that "The town is paying almost one million dollars for 40-some children to go to school."

Rick Mielke explained that there are actually 90 students to pay for in Monterey. Of those 90 students, approximately 46 attend the SBRSD, but the other 44, who are either home schooled or attend another district, must by law be funded as well. He expressed his disapproval of Sheffield's stance on the school budget: "I don't like the

way that Sheffield 'back-doored' the School Committee. The school budget was in place and this was a last minute change."

Richard Tryon pointed out that "Sheffield only has four out of the ten votes on the School Committee and that, historically, they have never voted as a block." It was also noted that in Sheffield the School Committee positions are appointed by the Select Board and not elected. SBRSD Superintendent Valerie Spriggs was present, and she praised the work of the School Committee and made a distinction between their work and the current problem. It was noted that if the apportionment changes, Monterey's per pupil cost may be $13,000–$14,000. The SBRSD operating budget passed unanimously but voters were alerted of the likelihood of a Special Town Meeting to deal with the budget again in the near future. (And in its Town Meeting, which was later, Sheffield did indeed vote to withdraw from the existing agreement.)

The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

Another hold was issued for the line item concerning the Southern Berkshire Regional Community Center, whose budget request was up from $600 in FY 2007 to $2500 in FY 2008. The Director of the Community Center, Eliza Crescentini, gave an impassioned report about the many programs that the Community Center sponsors that benefit Monterey and the surrounding communities, including after school transport from Undermountain Elementary School and Mount Everett High School to Berkshire South Community Center, programs for snow days for children of working parents, and a bilingual summer camp. The appropriation was unanimously approved.

Article 13 was to see if the Town would vote to appropriate $320,00 for building a salt shed to bring the Town of Monterey in compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act. Dean Amidon pointed out that for years state bond money was issued for such improvements and that perhaps the Town should wait and see if a State Transportation Bond would supply the necessary monies. Barbara Gauthier said that to vote the $320,00 would show the Town is making a good faith effort to comply with the federal regulations. Jon Sylbert said, "If we as a town do the right thing and appropriate these funds, and other small towns wait and scream bloody murder about it, and they get free salt sheds, then I will be really mad." Laurily Epstein asked if there were any plans for using "green" technology, i.e., solar panels, etc. Joe Baker added, "I understand that we are required by the federal government to cover the shed. However many of us don't agree with the amount of salt that is used in Monterey. Could we use less salt and reduce the size of the shed?" Sylbert responded that the building must be big enough to load the trucks inside. Richard Tryon pointed out that there are many places to put the proposed salt shed and that there should be more study about its placement. Sylbert said that ideally the entire area at the town garage should be studied, including the transfer station, but added that due to a federal mandate the transfer station would have to be covered soon too. Town Clerk Barbara Swann explained the secret ballot process (required for a Proposition $2^1/_2$ exemption), and through that process Article 13 was approved.

Article 17 was to see if the Town would vote to appropriate $5700 for a Mapping Program Link for the Board of Assessors. Bob Gauthier, a member of the Board of Assessors, explained that the Assessors have approximately 41 maps and that with the requested software they will be able to link the map data, the property sketches, and photos for a very comprehensive plot plan. Board of Assessors member Stan Ross stated that the primary users of the system would probably be the various town boards such as the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Rob Hoogs asked who would operate the

(continued on p. 4)

HEBERT REALTY INC.
P.O. Box 924, Monterey, MA 01245
20 Stockbridge Rd.
Great Barrington, MA 01230

"Condos to Castles"

LINDA HEBERT
Broker
CBR, CRB, CRS, GRI, SRES

Office (413) 528-3440
Fax (413) 528-1588
Cell (413) 717-0066

E-Mail: hebertrlty@aol.com
www.HebertRealty.com

A Selection from the Cultural Council's Monterey Photography Show (clockwise from top left):
Lyman Thomson, "Original Lake Garfield Association," Lake Garfield (Cultural Council Recognition); Frank D'Amato, "Winter Evening Light," Town center (Grand Prize); Joel Schick, "Daffodil Rock," Main Road (Landscape Award); Joanna Jennings, "Footstone," Beartown Road (Grand Prize)

Berkshire Timber Frames & Log Homes

BERKSHIRE
TIMBER FRAMES
413-623-5588

Beth VanNess, Owner
CS #093626

- *Quality custom builders & designers*
- *Traditional, affordable post & beam and log homes*
- *Custom timber & log homes built to YOUR specifications*

Web Site: www.
BerkshireTimberFrames.com

E-mail: Info@
BerkshireTimberFrames.com

Phone: (413) 623-5588

Licensed & Insured

MUNSON SATELLITE
T.V.

DISH NETWORK WITH ALBANY LOCAL CHANNELS, XM AND SIRIUS RADIO, DIRECT TV AND ANTENNA SYSTEMS

CALL OR FAX
GEORGE MUNSON
413-258-4887

P.O. BOX 923
MONTEREY, MA 01255

FULLY INSURED

Maggie Leonard

Karen Schreefter addresses meeting

system, and Gauthier responded that approximately $1000 of the appropriation would go for training two people to learn to operate the program. The article passed with a voice vote.

Article 22 was to see if the Town would adopt MGL Chapter 59, Section 5K, which allows for a "Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-off Program." Town Treasurer Patricia Mielke described the program as a way for senior citizens (persons over 60 years of age) to defray some of their property taxes by contributing work to the Town. The work performed would be calculated at minimum wage, and the maximum abatement would be $750. Select Board member Wayne Burkhart said, "This is a good opportunity for the Town and Pat is willing to supervise the program, which is what will make it a success." The article was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

Article 23 was a Town Bylaw amendment concerning the presence of dogs at the Town beach or in Town parks, which is currently illegal. As with any bylaw about dogs there was plenty of discussion. Jules Dahlman said, "This is a spite bill. There is already a Town Bylaw prohibiting dogs at the beach and Town parks. I bring my dog to the beach at 5 or 6 a.m. to chase off the geese." Jon Sylbert said, "This is not about the law, this is about putting teeth in the law." (Probably not intending the pun.) The bylaw proposes to create a system of fines for bylaw infractions: $50 for the first offense, $100 for the second offense, and $200 for the third offense. Karen Shreefter asked, "Who would write the summons?" and was told that the Police Department would administer the fines. Jules Dahlman asked if anyone had ever been fined under the existing laws, "because if not I don't see the purpose of this." Chief of Police Gareth Backhaus said that the fines are always at the discretion of the officer and that there are signs at the beach and the parks indicating that no dogs are allowed. The question was called and the article was approved by voice vote.

Article 25 was a proposal from the Select Board that the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting be kept by the Town Clerk and approved by the Moderator and the Select Board. Currently there is no protocol regarding the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting. A motion to pass over the article failed. A motion to amend the proposal by removing the Moderator from the list of people who would be responsible for approving the minutes passed. Barbara Gauthier said, "We do not need Barbara Swann to record conversations, we just need to have the votes recorded." Janet Cathcart asked, "What is the legal definition of 'the minutes'?" Town Counsel Jerome Scully stated that state law says that the Town Clerk will record the votes, so the votes and the minutes would be two separate things. Sylbert then explained that at last year's Town Meeting there was a disagreement between a member of the Select Board and the Town Clerk concerning recorded statements in the minutes. Kay Purcell observed that it was a one-time thing and that if this was the first time it was "broken," do we really need to make a new bylaw about it. Janet Cathcart suggested amending the bylaw proposal to state, "The minutes of the Annual Town meeting shall consist solely of the votes." Kathy Wasiuk, said, "I am trained as an historian and I know that the more information in these cases the better." The article was tabled by a vote of 43 in favor and 11 opposed.

Article 27 was a Planning Board proposal to amend the Zoning Bylaws Section VII. C.3 to exclude roadway property lines from a two-hundred-foot buffer zone that must surround all non-municipal educational and religious institutions and uses. Sylbert observed, "Zoning is for the public good. The implication of the existing bylaw is that people wanted a buffer zone around these institutions. When you change a bylaw the effects go on into the future with unintended consequences." Kathy Wasiuk countered, "This is only about road frontage and refers to a very small and specific group in town." Sylbert remained unconvinced and said that it would effect the whole town. The question was called by a vote of 49 in favor, one opposed. The vote to approve the bylaw change was 31 in favor and 15 opposed.

Article 28 was a citizen petition to ask the Select Board to direct the Police Chief to have an officer in the center of town on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 8:30–11 a.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day to help direct traffic. Richard Tryon presented the petition and explained that some citizens had been asking both the

SACRED SINGING:
Our Baptist and Jewish Past

Roberta Laws, soprano, and the **First Baptist Church Choir of Pittsfield** will commemorate the first 83 years of our history as a Baptist church with song. **Deborah Zecher**, cantor and rabbi of **Hevreh in Great Barrington**, will be joined by the **Hevreh Choir** to perform Jewish sacred music to honor the following 74 years of our history as a Jewish synagogue.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16 8PM $10

THE SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER

413-258-4100
www.sandisfieldartscenter.org

Maggie Leonard

Dick Tryon having his say.

Police Chief and the Select Board about this issue for several years with no result. Dan Moriarty questioned the need for a special article and voiced his skepticism about micromanaging the Police Department. Janet Cathcart said that perhaps what is needed is a crossing guard and added, "I don't think we should hire a Police Chief and then tell him how to do his job. It is inappropriate to tie down the police cruiser in the center of town where their radios don't work."

Chief Backhaus weighed in on the discussion: "People have come to the Select Board and said that an officer in the middle of the street increases confusion. I don't mind putting an officer in the middle of town if an officer is available." The Chief also noted that for there to be a crossing guard there must be a crosswalk. Select Board member Michael Storch declared, "The Coffee Club is taking up a lot of the parking spaces. Much of the congestion would be alleviated if the Coffee Club would park elsewhere." Dean Amidon noted that he had directed traffic in town himself and indicated that he thought an officer during that time would be helpful. Kathy Wasiuk asked, "Is it too much to ask to have a policeman helping in town?" Barbara Tryon suggested that perhaps there could be a volunteer from the town to help. Chief Backhaus said, "We've gotten the message. I want to have a separate person to do this." Dan Moriarty addressed Tryon saying, "Dick you have made a strong point and a good point. However I am still opposed to passing legislation that micromanages the Select Board and the Police Chief." Tryon responded that he has been trying for three years to get this changed and has not seen any action to date. Jon Sylbert said, "This is fundamentally a parking problem and it's not going to go away. I've spoken with Gareth [Backhaus] about it. Maybe we need signs and time limits." Joe Baker said, "It's clear that the Chief has heard our concerns and said that if he has the resources he will do it. So Chief, do we have the resources?" Backhaus responded, "I think that we do currently have the funds and I have a good feeling about the new Community Policing Grant." The article for the citizen petition failed with 38 opposed and 14 affirmative.

— Maggie Leonard

ॐ

The Town

On Monday May 7, the Select Board welcomed new member Scott Jenssen, who won the seat on the board in the May 5th election. After electing Jon Sylbert as the new Select Board chair, the board discussed the viability of evening meetings, specifically an evening meeting on the third Monday of each month. Sylbert observed that the evening meetings have been poorly attended if at all. The board unanimously agreed not to hold regularly scheduled evening meetings but to have them on an as-needed basis.

The Select Board's annual meeting with second homeowners will be held at the Firehouse on Saturday July 7, from 9:30–10:30 a.m.

During the May 7th meeting the board discussed the report from Berkshire Mediation Services and how to proceed. Sylbert suggested waiting until new member Scott Jenssen had an opportunity to review the report. During the May 21st meeting the board agreed to write a letter to Jenna Ford of Berkshire Mediation Services to request that she do further work on her report, which Sylbert observed was "too

Serving Monterey for over 20 years Call Jay 528-5099

JAY AMIDON PAINTING

Clean, Orderly, and Accommodating
Staining · Painting · Interior · Exterior · Old & New

Garden Design / Garden Care

perennials, annuals, containers, mixed borders

Wendy Tryon
Certified Horticulturist

369 Main Road
P.O. Box 91
Monterey, MA 01245

413-528-4058
tryon@bcn.net

general." In a later conversation Sylbert said there was a bias in the report toward looking at other towns' methods, recommending more appointed positions (and less elected) and advocating a town manager. He observed that towns that have a town manager (such as Great Barrington) and more appointed officials don't work any better than Monterey does at present, and that there is no proof that instituting these positions reduces conflicts.

Also during the May 7th meeting Chris Blair from the Conservation Commission met with the Select Board to decide how to handle floating rafts in Lake Garfield. A moment of research into the Town Bylaws revealed that the Harbor Master administers the permits for floating rafts as well as moorings for boats. It was noted that Chief of Police Gareth Backhaus is the Harbor Master and Dean Amidon is the Assistant Harbor Master.

Chief Backhaus asked if the Conservation Commission is the board that approves docks, to which Blair responded that the Conservation Commission oversees the construction of docks but that the state is the permit granting authority. The Select Board agreed to confer with Dean Amidon regarding permitting for floating rafts on Lake Garfield. On May 14 Amidon and the Select Board discussed specifics about regulations for floating rafts on Lake Garfield, such as making sure that they have reflectors and that they be removed for the winter. It was generally agreed that no one wanted to set up an elaborate system and that it should be simple to obtain a permit. Amidon agreed to oversee and expedite the permitting process.

Director of Operations

The Select Board met with Director of Operations Maynard Forbes to discuss debris in Rawson Brook. The Highway Department has a policy of not going on private property, and Forbes noted that if the trees in the brook are not removed there will eventually be damage to the road. Select Board member Wayne Burkhart believes that it is the town's responsibility to clean up the logs in Rawson Brook to prevent any road damage in the future. Forbes cautioned against setting a precedent for similar situations. The Select Board and Forbes agreed to have Town Counsel write a letter to the Conservation Commission and the landowner requesting permission to remove the logs from Rawson Brook and a signed statement releasing the town from liability.

Scott Jenssen asked about the status of the construction of the bridge on River Road. Forbes replied that work is proceeding on schedule, that the contractor has until September to complete the project, and that the road is ready for resurfacing. On Monday, May 14, Forbes reported that the Highway Department had painted new lines in front of the General Store and repainted the crosswalks and that the flags had been put up for Memorial Day. He also said that road grading was proceeding and that all the roads that had new gravel dumped on them had also been rolled.

Police Department

Chief of Police Gareth Backhaus met with the Select Board on May 7 to request that the board post an executive session to be held on May 14 with him, the Select Board, and Police Officer Kyle Whalley. The Board agreed to do so and contacted Town Counsel to request that he attend the meeting. On May 14 at 10 a.m. with Officer Whalley and his attorney Raymond Jacuba in attendance, the Select Board asked Whalley if he would prefer an open meeting or to go into executive session. Officer Whalley requested that it be an open meeting. Select Board chair Jon Sylbert noted that two complaints had been lodged against Officer Whalley. The first and foremost was that a state law requires police officers to live within 15 miles of the town they serve, and the second was a complaint from the Chief concerning conduct unbecoming to an officer. It was noted that Officer Whalley had been informed about the 15-mile rule when he began working in Monterey and had assured the Chief that the situation would change. According to Sylbert, it did change, but for the worse: Whalley moved further away, to Chicopee.

Regarding the charge of conduct unbecoming to an officer, Chief Backhaus

Save & share your treasured photos for generations to come.

the photo archivist

Photos can be scanned, restored and archived for new prints, printed books and slideshows.

Visit us at thephotoarchivist.com

Request a brochure at 528-4531 or info@thephotoarchivist.com.

JIM EDELMAN

Realtor
General Contractor
October Mountain Realty
413-528-0006
cljvedelman@aol.com

h. hagenah–broker

Conservation/Preservation/ Restoration

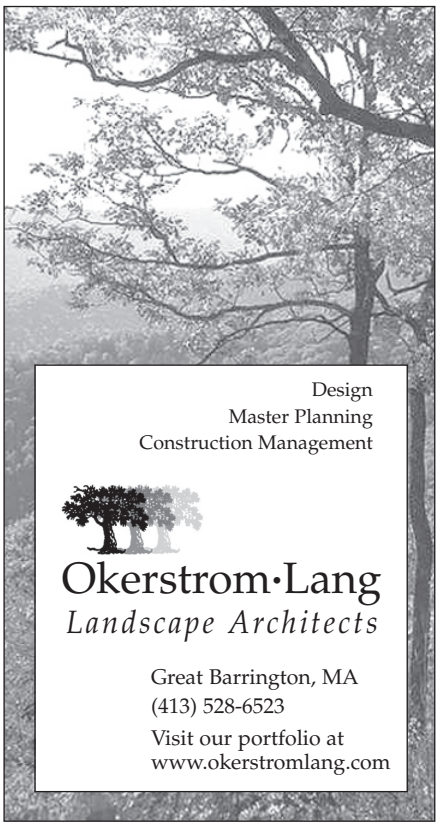
said that just prior to the Annual Town Meeting on May 5 Officer Whalley became agitated when the Chief refused to let him attend the meeting to ask for more money for the Police Department on the floor of the meeting. According to Chief Backhaus, Officer Whalley "stormed out of the building very upset, jumped into the police cruiser, and sped away with the engine revving." Officer Whalley then went to Chief Backhaus's house, parked the cruiser (it is stored there), and left.

At that point Chief Backhaus decided to suspend Officer Whalley with pay and to request an executive session with the Select Board and Officer Whalley. Jacuba, Officer Whalley's attorney, asked if those incidents were the basis of the hearing. Sylbert responded they were, and also performance reviews. Jacuba asked if there were any written reports about other infractions by Officer Whalley, and Backhaus responded that he had written a memo to the Select Board about recurring issues with Whalley. Jacuba began to make further inquiries but was interrupted by Town Counsel Jerome Scully, who stated that the purpose of the hearing was to inform Officer Whalley of the complaints and that it was not an evidentiary hearing, so the line of questioning was inappropriate. Jacuba asked if the Select Board was intending to hold a disciplinary hearing, to which the board responded in the affirmative. "Then can we do that now?" asked Jacuba. Town Counsel said that he did not know if Chief Backhaus was prepared for such a hearing. Backhaus responded, "We can move forward with it."

Select Board chair Jon Sylbert explained to Jacuba that this is the time of year for reappointments and that if Chief Backhaus does not recommend reappointing Officer Whalley the Select Board would probably go with that. It was noted that the 15-mile-limit issue had been ongoing and that the suspension with pay was related to the May 5th incident. Jacuba asked if there were any proposals about what action the town would take. Sylbert responded no, this was just a hearing. After the hearing there was correspondence between Town Counsel and Jacuba, and it was decided that Officer Whalley would resign without prejudice due to the 15-mile-limit rule. Chief Backhaus will have to advertise for another full-time officer.

The Monterey Police Department responded to the following calls: abandoned 911 call on Main Road; unauthorized burning on Pixley Road; motor vehicle accident on Main Road that took out a split rail fence on May 6 (police are looking for a 1982–1990 Chevy Blazer with extensive driver's side front-end damage); drunk and distraught person on Old Beartown Road (Fire Company responded); motor vehicle accident on Route 57 involving police cruiser (minimal damage); assisted New Marlborough with Section 12/Danger to self and others call.

— Maggie Leonard



Town Election Results

Two hundredand forty-one citizens (out of 631 registered voters, a 38% turnout) voted in the May 5 election.

Contested Seats

Select Board (3 years)
Scott Jenssen 138
Stephen Rose 99
Blank 4

Board of Appeals (5 years)
Susan Cooper 104
Robert Lazzarini 125
Blank 12

Uncontested Seats

Board of Assessors (3 years)
Stan Ross 202
Blank 38
Write-in 1

Board of Health (3 years)
Bob Annelli 193
Blank 47
Write-in 1

Cemetery Committee (3 years)
Steve Pullen 210
Blank 31

Constable (3 years)
Ray Tryon 190
Blank 49
Write-in 2

Finance Committee (3 years)
Maryellen Brown 200
Blank 40
Write-in 1

Library Trustees (2 seats, 3 years)
Carolee (Mickey) Jervas 167
William Marsh 186
Blank 129

Moderator (1 year)
Mark Makuc 218
Blank 22
Write-in 1

Park Commission (2 seats, 3 years)
Diana Piepho 158
Valerie Zantay 178
Blank 146

Planning Board (2 seats, 5 years)
Maggie Leonard 201
Brian Puntin 165
Blank 116

Planning Board (1 seat, 1 year)
Alan Salamon 183
Blank 58

Tax Collector (3 years)
Anne Marie (Mari) Enoch 210
Blank 31

Treasurer (3 year)
Pat Mielke 208
Blank 32
Write-in 1

Tree Warden (1 year)
Roger Tryon 195
Blank 45
Write-in 1

Question 1. Shall the Town of Monterey be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition $2^1/_2$ the amount required to pay for the bond(s) issued for buiding a Salt Shed?
Yes 161
No 55
Blank 25

ॐ

Maggie Leonard

From the Meetinghouse . . .
A Memorial Day Offering:

This is the sixth year I have been honored to offer the prayer of invocation at the Memorial Day Service at Veterans' Park, which means that every time I have done so while we as a nation have been at war. Every year I say something like this: I thank God for the gift of freedom, I ask that we remember those who have died defending freedom in its political manifestation, and I pray that we as children of God might be, in the words of Henry Emerson Fosdick, "cured of our warring madness." And so I did again this year. But I also added something new to my usual repertoire. I asked that we act on our prayer by taking up a collection for a new program, Canines for Combats Veterans. The organization Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans (NEADS) has set a goal of having, by the end of the year, ten dogs placed with returning soldiers in need of such assistance—not to mention loyal companionship. It seems a modest goal until we consider that it takes $10,000 to train a dog for such service. Though more fitting, perhaps, for Veterans' Day than Memorial Day, this collection I offered as my prayer of invocation—not only to call God to our minds and hearts, but also to hear God's call to us that we act on our hopes for a better world. I admit that it seems a modest attempt at accomplishing something so great. Regardless, I would invite those reading this, as I invited those gathered last month in the park, to give as you are able. You can send a check to the church at P.O. Box 182; make a note that it is for "NEADS" or "Canines for Combat Veterans." Thank you.

— Elizabeth Goodman

ॐ

Bidwell House Needs Volunteers

The Bidwell House Museum is welcoming volunteers to serve as tour guides for the season, which started on Memorial Day and will end on Columbus Day. The museum is open Thursdays through Mondays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Training is scheduled at 11:00 a.m. on June 8, 15, and 22, but personal training is also offered. Volunteer's hours are flexible.

Museum Director Martha Dailey says that "to be a guide in a historic home, you must have a love of learning and a passion to share knowledge with others. Every item in the house serves as a memory tool. We find that guides have a wealth of information from which to draw." The staff is looking forward to meeting retired men and women or summer guests who are anxious to give some time at the colonial history museum.

There are many ways a person can volunteer—from gardening to helping with office work and mailings. "It's all about service to others and giving back for all the blessings we have," said Dailey. Call the museum: 413-528-6888.

Master Lic. No. 15186 A | Fully Insured | Phone & Fax 413-528-5444

ANDRUS POWER SOLUTIONS

MAIN ROAD
MONTEREY, MA 01245

Generators & Alternative Energy | Phone & Cable TV | Residential & Commercial Wiring

MONTEREY

GENERAL STORE

Serving Monterey for over 200 years

Take-Out Lunch & Dinner
Baked Goods, Pies, etc.
Ice Cream Window

Route 23, Monterey
Phone 528-4437; FAX 528-2889
Web Site: montereystore.com
Summer Hours
Mon–Thurs: 7:30 am–6:00 pm
Friday: 7:30 am–9:00 pm
Sat: 7:30 am–6:00 pm
Sunday, 8:00–1:00 pm

Cultural Council's Summer Offering

Astronomy, Music, Literature

Astronomers Richard Sanderson and Dave Galiup will return to Monterey for a community Astronomy Night on Friday, June 8, at 8:00 p.m. (Cloud date: Saturday, June 9). The event is free and appropriate for all ages. Sanderson is Curator of Physical Science and Planetarium Director at the Springfield Science Museum, and Galiup is President of the Springfield Naturalists Club and longtime astronomy educator. They will share their expertise with us and answer questions for approximately one hour indoors in the Monterey Meetinghouse Community Room; then we will proceed to the Greene Park field for sky viewing. Several telescopes will be available, and attendees are invited to bring their own, as well as binoculars.

The Trillium Ensemble will perform a concert on Saturday, June 16, at 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Monterey Meetinghouse. The popular Berkshire trio—Lee Dixon on piano, and sopranos Madonna Meagher and Cardinale Montano—will showcase music in a variety of languages, including Mendelssohn, Schubert, Faure, Debussy, Rossini, and Bernstein. The concert is free, and will appeal to a variety of musical tastes from opera to art song, lieder, and chanson.

Save the date! On Tuesday, July 31, from 7:00–9:00 p.m., Frank Tempone of Word Street in Pittsfield will conduct a two-hour workshop, "Absolute Beginner's Course in Flash Fiction," at the Monterey General Store. The event will be free. Watch the July *News* for more details.

Library Recent Acquisitions

New DVDs

The Good German
Letters from Iwo Jima
Apocalypto
Planet Earth
Dreamgirls
Little Children
Catch and Release
Breaking and Entering
The Painted Veil
Becket
The Quiltmaker's of Gee's Bend

New Adult Fiction

A Thousand Splendid Suns, Khalid Hosseini
Pearl Harbor, Newt Gingrich
Quest, Wilbur Smith
Overlook, Michael Connelly
Edict, Bob Cupp
Ghengis, Conn Iggulden
Good Husband of Zebra Drive, Arthur McCall-Smith
Woods, Harlan Coben
Falling Man, Don Delillo
Up in Honey's Room, Elmore Leonard
Later at the Bar, Rebecca Barry

New Adult Nonfiction

Einstein, Walter Isaacson
Big Papi, David Ortiz
Animal, Vegetable, Miracle, Barbara Kingsolver
Thick as Thieves, Steve Geng
Long Exile, Melanie McGrath
Rethinking Thin, Gina Kolota

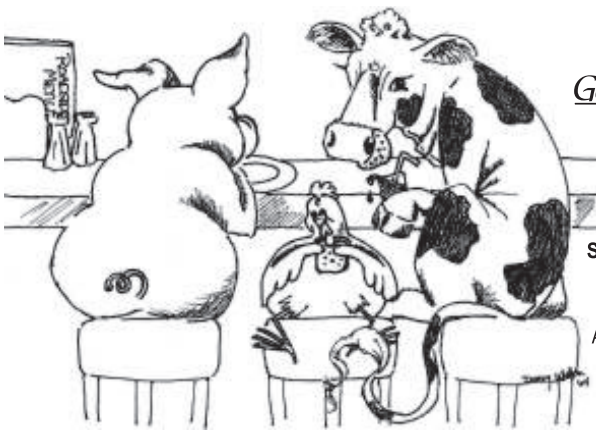
Children's

The Dangerous Book for Boys, Conn Iggulden
How to Bake an American Pie, Karma Wilson
Terrorists, Tornados and Tsunamis, John Orndorff
Jack Plank Tells Tales, Natalie Babbitt
Red Moon at Sharpsburg, Rosemary Wells
Peak, Roland Smith

Monterey Church Sponsoring Concert July 5

Following a winter spent refurbishing our sanctuary, the Monterey United Church of Christ would like to invite the community into our newly brightened space—a re-sanctification of sorts. So, we're hosting a free concert featuring John Sellew (painter-musician extraordinaire!), Vikki True, and Bobby Sweet on the evening of Thursday, July 5, from 7–9 p.m. What a treat to have such fine local musicians! Please come and enjoy the sights and sounds of our sanctuary.

Roadside Store & Cafe *Where Life is Sunny-Side Up*



Gould Farm
Since 1913
We Harvest Hope

Summer Hours begin May 1st
open 7 days a week
Wednesdays: 7:30 am -1:30 pm
All other days: 7:30 am - 2:30 pm
Grill off 15 minutes before closing
On Rte 23 in Monterey
(413) 528-2633

WEBNASH BUILDERS
TRADITIONAL
DESIGN & BUILDING
New Building
Renovations
Restorations

MICHAEL ERKKINEN
413-329-5405
mike@webnash.com
MA Registration #148166

Blue Hill Cows Come Home

Perhaps you've noticed that cows have returned to Blue Hill Road? Recently the Barber family, owners of Blue Hill Farm, arranged for it to be farmed by Sean Stanton, a 31-year-old who has been farming the ten acres on his parents' property in Great Barrington for the last six years. The result is a win-win situation for the Barbers, Stanton, and Monterey.

First off, Stanton is an ideal example of a concerned citizen so interested in discovering where his food came from that he became a farmer. In 2001, after a hitch in the Coast Guard, followed by a degree from BCC, Stanton began farming after learning about the questionable nutritional value of meat and poultry from today's industrial farms. "Food from modern animals is not as nourishing or tasty as food from heritage breeds," says Stanton. Heritage breeds, an increasingly popular choice for health-conscious farmers, are, in Stanton's words, "those animals capable of living in a diverse environment that is genetically appropriate to that breed."

Working steadily to improve the quality of the land around his parents' home, Stanton began raising dairy cows, cattle, swine, and poultry, selling well-bred-animal products at a premium price. In a short time his fame grew as a source for high-quality eggs and meat; soon he was selling to individual and professional customers at the farm and, starting two years ago, at the Great Barrington Farmers

© Jason Huston

Market. This spring he added the Lenox Farmers Market to his outlets.

As an animal grower, Stanton knew from the outset that he would need more farmland than the ten acres his parents owned. Dairy cows, for example, need at least two acres per head for their grass feed. But the rapid escalation in land prices in the Berkshires in general, and south county in particular, quickly priced him out of the real estate market. Narain Schroeder, Director of Land Conservation for Berkshire Natural Resources Council, agrees: "As the price of land in Berkshire County has skyrocketed, farmland has been converted to vacation homes at an ever-increasing rate."

Unable to afford more land, Stanton tried moving part of his operations to nearby Sunway Farm in Housatonic, but that arrangement did not work. Then he met Dan Barber, an increasingly well-known and highly respected chef and outspoken advocate of "smart food policy." Dan and his brother David, who along with two other family members own Blue Hill Farm in Monterey, were interested in restoring their family's property as the working animal farm it had been in their youth.

Anne Strauss, the Barbers' grandmother, bought Blue Hill Farm in the 1960s and, as David reports, "almost immediately put a farmer on the land again." Dan and David spent the summers of their youth at Blue Hill Farm, haying the fields for the Black Angus cattle raised on the land by a neighbor from Tyringham. Mrs. Strauss, a well-known activist in cultural and conservation circles in the Berkshires, was instrumental in her grandsons' interest in farming and open space. "She instilled in me a sense of enjoying our view as well as the responsibility to keep those views open," says Dan.

In 2000, after attending culinary school and running a catering company, Dan Barber, along with David and David's wife, Laureen, opened Blue Hill Restaurant in Greenwich Village, an instant favorite with New York's culinary cognoscenti. Shortly thereafter the Barber brothers began planning for Blue Hill at Stone Barn, which opened within Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture in Pocantico Hills in 2004. The enormous background work necessary for this monumental project—including the restaurant, a farm, and an educational center—helped inspire and prepare the Barbers as they sought to reopen Blue Hill Farm both as an homage to their grandmother and

* Relax
* Destress
* Rejuvenate

Gentle painless noninvasive therapeutic body work

move effortlessly and freely
1hour and 1 1/2 hour

The Trager® Approach

Wendy Tryon RN
(413) 528-4058

Trager Certified practitioner

GREEN ARTS GARDEN DESIGN

Design—Installation—Maintenance

Perennial Borders Shade Gardens
Water Gardens Trees & Shrubs
Master Plans Consultations

Ruth Green
Masters in Landscape Architecture Phone:413-528-5908
Certified Horticulturist www.greenartsgardendesign.com

as a source for responsibly grown products for their New York City restaurant.

David recounts, "We needed to find someone in the Berkshires who could do the type of farming we believe in, someone who already used the farm practices that we preached." After Dan Barber and Sean Stanton met at a Slow Food event a few years ago, it became clear that the Barbers had found their farmer.

© Jason Huston

And thus a year ago Stanton became a partner with the Barber family in redeveloping Blue Hill Farm. The Barbers are investing in the infrastructure of the property, including the renovation of a large dairy barn and construction of a cheese room. Stanton has fewer than a dozen dairy cows on the land now, but plans to milk as many as eighteen in the near future. In addition to his labor, Stanton's contribution to the partnership includes providing soil improvement and general farm oversight.

Stanton believes that New England has great pastureland, although he acknowledges that a lot of it "has been abused over the years, but it's still good. It just needs care and attention so there's no reason why cows can't produce great milk here."

To restore the Blue Hill Farm pasture, Stanton worked with Kate Parsons, the District Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Recognizing that the farm's hay fields were not productive, Stanton applied for a grant to improve the situation. Parsons says, "Soil health and fertility are critical in operating a sustainable and productive farm. NRCS staff sampled the soil in the fields and prepared a nutrient management plan to improve fertility and thus productivity."

Fans of raw milk will have a new source for it once Stanton gets his milk license. Massachusetts law mandates that raw milk be sold directly from the farm. "Raw milk is as pure and whole as nature intended it to be," comments Stanton. So why the fuss about how and where to sell it? Stanton says "People did it for thousands of years, so why not now?" He readily admits that to enjoy the benefits of raw milk, the cows must be eating what they were meant to eat—grass, not corn.

The Barber family believes their partnership with Stanton will be successful. Dan says, "This is not a case of noblesse oblige towards a small, idealistic farmer. It's an experiment in how a farmer and a restaurant or chef can interact with a real economic imperative." And, he adds proudly, "Cows now dot the land again."

The arrangement between the Barbers and Stanton will continue for five years and then be reevaluated. As Schroeder notes, "Their partnership is an example of the new opportunities for farmers who are able to be creative. Today's consumers are more conscious of the food they eat. Buying food is not just about the price. Now consumers want to know their food is free of antibiotics, hormones, and pesticides. They are willing to pay a premium for food with a face on it."

Over the last half century, there has been a growing disconnect between people and the food they eat. Yet as Schroeder notes, within the last several years more and more Americans are searching for healthier ways to eat. Their search has led to a resurgence of interest in and desire for locally grown foods. "That's one reason why the Barber/Stanton arrangement is so compelling," asserts Schroeder.

Partnerships between savvy landowners and ecologically responsible farmers are a creative way to reestablish a thriving local agriculture in an era when harsh economic realities preclude affordable land for new farmers. In some cases, local land trusts are buying land for farmers. In other instances, generous rental arrangements are being brokered. And in Monterey a young heritage-breed farmer forged a partnership with the family of a chef who believes that "flavor leads the way."

— Laurily K. Epstein

Insured

MA Reg. No. 147453

Mr. Fix-it

Handyman, home repairs, remodeling

Ken Mayer
P. O. Box 825
East Otis, MA 01029

Tel: 413-269-4009
Cel: 413-281-4853
kmayer8@attglobal.net

Orchid Blossom
Healing Arts
Classical Acupuncture
Zen Shiatsu

Lauren Paul, Dipl. Ac.
Licensed in CT and MA
Call for an appointment
413-258-4296

June Events at Bidwell House

The Bidwell House opened for the season on Memorial Day. Special events in June include talks by two prominent authors and a workshop on the care and maintenance of objects in a historic house museum and care of the exterior of old houses, especially wood windows.

On Saturday, June 9, at 1:00 p.m., Jack Larkin, a museum scholar and historian at Old Sturbridge Village, will give a talk on his newest publication, *Where We Lived: Discovering the Places We Once Called Home*. Featuring four hundred evocative photographs from the Library of Congress Historic American Building Survey, Larkin tells the stories of American families and the reality of home life in the early years of the Republic. Drawing on travelers' tales, diaries and journals, builder's plans and contracts, home inventories and court testimonies, Larkin's narrative is supplemented by paintings, prints, maps, and a profile of surviving historic residences. The photographs were taken during the Depression, and this is the first time they are available in print.

On Saturday, June 16, at 10:00 a.m., preservationists from the Heritage Foundation's Conservation Assessment Program will return to lead a workshop addressing the inside and outside of historic homes, especially the care and maintenance of interior objects and home exterior issues, with an emphasis on wood windows.

"To clean or not to clean," is the title of the workshop provided by Chris Thomson, collections consultant from Salem, Massachusetts, who will answer questions related to the care and conservation of early antiques. She is a senior conservator and restoration expert on furniture, wood artifacts, gilded and painted surfaces, and any historic objects that would be found in a historic home. She has worked at the Peabody House Museum and Danvers Historical Society and is available for analysis of private collections.

Kimberly Alvarez is owner of Landmark Consulting in Albany, New York. An outstanding architectural assessor, Alvarez has led an initiative to place old wood windows on the endangered properties list in New York State and has proposed the same for Massachusetts and the National Trust for Endangered Properties. Her work includes assessments for the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell and building conservation for Danvers Historical Society. Her expertise includes metal, ceramics, glass, archival and photographic materials and stone.

On Saturday, June 23, at 1:00 p.m., the Bidwell Authors Series will feature local novelist, George Minkoff, who will speak on his *The Weight of Smoke,* first volume in a trilogy titled *In the Land of Whispers*. Comparing this work to *Moby Dick,* writer Henry Meininger says the book is "laden with meaning;... the story is far more interesting and the insights and observations about human nature more probing." The book is about the first and failed settlement of Jamestown, Virginia, relating the story is about John Smith and the white intrusion on Indian land. Covering a time period from 1580 to 1610, the Jamestown part of the story begins in 1606 when the Virginia Company was chartered and 108 settlers sailed from London. May, 2007 is the 400th Anniversary of Jamestown's settlement. Minkoff "pulls you into another time and makes you aware that these were indeed unusual times," says Meininger.

For further information, call the museum at 413-528-6888. There will be a standard fee for all events at the museum this season; tours of the historic house are $10 for adults, $8 for seniors and students; children under 6 are free. Books featured will be for sale and authors are willing to sign them.

Beautifying homes in the Berkshires

INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING SERVICES

Painting • Staining • Pressure Washing
Repair of Decks, Sheet Rock & Plaster Walls

Call now for a prompt, free estimate:

413-269-8948
Len Mandile

QUALITY PAINTING SERVICES
MASS. REG. #147903 • FULLY INSURED

Invest in Yourself
with the
action-oriented psychotherapies
at
Stillpoint

• Hypnosis
• Past-Life Regression
• Imagery for Healing
• Lifemapping
• EMDR
• Creative Arts Therapy
• Transition Rituals

Eileen Lawlor, MSW, BCD
(413) 528-7916

Sisters in Crime
Mystery Writers at Monterey Library July 2

On Monday, July 2, at 7 p.m., the Monterey Library is sponsoring an evening with Sisters in Crime, three women mystery writers. Though they may not tell who done it, they will spill the beans about how they done it, as they read from their books and discuss their craft.

Leslie Wheeler, an award-winning author of biographies and books on American history, now writes the "living history" mystery series—books set in the present day but at historic sites, which enables her to weave in a lot of history. Her heroine is Miranda Lewis, a forty-something author of American history books and amateur sleuth. Titles in the series include *Murder at Plimoth Plantation* and *Murder at Gettysburg*. Currently, she is working on the third book in her series, *Murder at Mystic* (Seaport). Also in the works is a romantic suspense novel, *Rattlesnake Hill,* set in the Berkshires. Wheeler divides her time between Cambridge and her weekend/summer house in New Marlborough, where she does some of her best writing.

Tempa Pagel was born in Pontiac, Michigan and received a BA in history from Oakland University in Michigan, and a MEd from Fitchburg State College in Massachusetts. Since moving to Massachusetts in 1976, she has worked as a publicist, a freelance writer, a church school administrator, and a middle school special education teacher. She and her husband reside in Newburyport with their son and daughter.

Her recent novel *Here's the Church, Here's the Steeple* introduces Andy Gammon, a former history teacher and transplanted Detroiter now living in a New England coastal town with her dyed-in-the-wool Yankee husband, two children, and crusty mother-in-law. When a storm damages the steeple of the First Parish Church of Newburyport, revealing a skeleton holding a silver tankard that has been missing from the church plate since 1811, Andy (who has been updating the history of the First Parish) becomes involved in an ancient mystery. She finds herself stepping on toes as she seeks answers to questions surrounding a 200-year-old death, Newburyport's Great Fire of 1811, and certain town officials who might have a few closet skeletons of their own. *Here's the Church, Here's the Steeple* came out of Pagel's interest in local history, an intrigue with the workings of small New England towns, and an appreciation of the humor in raising children. She is at work on her second Andy Gammon mystery in which Andy and her sidekick, mother-in-law Mayta, again stumble across a dead body connected to the past, this time a girl who vanished from a grand hotel at the turn of the century.

Susan Oleksiw is the author of the Mellingham series featuring Chief of Police Joe Silva, who was introduced in *Murder in Mellingham* (1993). The later titles are *Double Take* (1994), *Family Album* (1995), *Friends and Enemies* (2001), and *A Murderous Innocence* (2006). Oleksiw's second series character, photographer and Hindu American Anita Ray, appears in a series of short stories, Oleksiw compiled *A Reader's Guide to the Classic British Mystery* (1988), and edited five more volumes in the Reader's Guide series. As consulting editor for *The Oxford Companion to Crime and Mystery Writing* (1999), she contributed several articles on crime fiction. She has written extensively on this genre and other topics, is well known as a reviewer of crime fiction for *The Drood Review of Mystery,* and is a founder of Level Best Books, a cooperative venture that publishes anthologies of crime fiction by New England writers. Oleksiw also writes fiction about India, where she lived while studying for her PhD in Sanskrit, from the University of Pennsylvania. One of her side interests is photography, which she has explored in local exhibits. She lives in Beverly, with her husband and their two cats and a dog.

Please join us at the Monterey Library for this intriguing and mysterious evening.

Every Community Has At Least One REALTOR® Like Nancy Kalodner.

(In the Berkshires, it's Nancy Kalodner.)

413-528-9595
nancyk@vgernet.net

BENCHMARK REAL ESTATE

PETER S. VALLIANOS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
✤
413-528-0055
fax: 413-528-6475
email: p.vallianos@verizon.net

30 years experience in Monterey serving your real estate needs including purchase and sales, zoning issues.
Board Member,
Monterey Preservation Land Trust

New location convenient to Monterey
30 Stockbridge Road (Route 7)
Great Barrington, MA 01230
(Just north of Belcher Square)

A spotted sandpiper looks for dragonflies along the banks of Lake Buel in Monterey on May 17. The spotted sandpiper winters near the Gulf of Mexico and summers in the northern states and Canada. The bird made a stop in Monterey. (Photo by Stephen Rose: After watching the bird eat two dragonflies I grabbed my camera and made the picture, scaring the bird away.)

Birds of All Feathers

Although the Lake Buel April flood has been making the papers, I'd like to share a more upbeat story about the lake. For the past four months I have been writing down bird sightings, and I am amazed at the number and variety of migratory and year-round birds that visit the lake. Many birds like the water and wetlands because of the variety of food (insects, plants, and fish) and the protective habitat that water provides.

Here is my list of spring bird sightings. Slate colored junco, blue jay, herring gull, white-breasted nuthatch, red-winged blackbird, robin, black-capped chickadee, ring-necked pheasant, Canada goose, wood duck, swamp sparrow, pine warbler, mourning dove, goldfinch, common flicker, grackle, mallard, northern cardinal, house sparrow, European starling, tufted titmouse, common merganser, downy woodpecker, prairie warbler, ruffed grouse, yellow-rumped warbler, common loon, tree swallow, orange-crowned warbler, Baltimore oriole, yellow warbler, American goldfinch, gray catbird, spotted sandpiper, northern raven, eastern phoebe, American crow, and great blue heron.

I'm sure I missed a few, but I was still impressed by the number and diversity of the birds. We all have to remember that environmental preservation in Monterey is not only for us, but also for those part-time and full-time residents that have feathers … and fly.

— Stephen Rose

ॐ

Monterey Library Notes

Thanks for your support of the library budget at town meeting. The trustees have voted to open the library on Thursdays from 4–6 p.m., starting July 5.

Starting July 1, senior taxpayers in Monterey will be able to volunteer and receive credit to help pay their tax bills–you must be 60 years of age. The library is one of the places you will be able to volunteer. Come on in and talk to us about what you have to offer the library and see what fun jobs we have for you!

Our children's summer reading program will start July 2, and our first performer will be the perennially popular John Porcino on Saturday, July 7, at 10:30 a.m. We'll have shows throughout July and into August on Saturday mornings which will entertain young and old alike.

Our annual book sale is approaching, on Saturday, July 28. We will accept donations until then.

Finally, a special thanks to Franny Huberman for leading our youth book discussion group. We had our final meeting of the year start at the General Store with Ken's pizza and salad. We already have the list of nominations for next year's Massachusetts Children Book Award, and we have a couple of early favorites: *The Penderwicks* and *Peter and the Starcatchers*. Come by for the complete list.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

PRECISION AUTOCRAFT, INC.
high quality collision repair

When you do business in a small town like Monterey for over twenty years, it leads to a certain way of dealing with people, one far removed from the assembly line atmosphere so prevalant in the automobile industry today. Even though we moved from Monterey to Rt. 7 on the Great Barrington/ Sheffield line several years ago, we have never changed our way of treating customers ... right down to giving you a ride home when you bring your car in, or dropping it off when it's done. We still offer the same warranty we've always given; all our paint and collision work is guaranteed for as long as you own your vehicle—no long list of criteria to meet.

Serving the tri-state Berkshires since 1978.
1939 North Main St., Sheffield, MA 01257
(413) 528-1457, or out of town call 1-800-734-1457

Letter from College
A Visit to Boston

During my spring break in March I went to Boston and spent two days with a Middlebury College alum who runs the State Sustainability Program. It was an opportunity through the college designed to give the student a chance to see what someone really does in their job. It was an informative two days of meetings, organization, planning, and paperwork, and was somewhat overwhelming, but nonetheless a valuable experience. On the second day I left work at 100 Cambridge Street and walked down past City Hall toward Park Street Station. I passed for the third or forth time a small old cemetery, and instead of rushing on to catch my ride, I stopped and walked through the black iron gate.

The gravestones were old: the early residents of Boston, *Mayflower* explorers, and famous first names in American history textbooks. Most were the old original stones, contrasting sharply to the high city buildings on three sides. It was peaceful in this small square plot, shockingly so with the busy street still so close by. The man in the business suit with the Starbucks coffee looks oddly out of place, but his expression reflects the common solemnity and respect of those around him. Studying the gravestones beside him is a couple quietly conferring: tourists, long lost relatives, it's hard to say. I guiltily snap a few photographs trying to capture the fascinating contrast of history and contemporary. Some stones are partially buried in dirt, and one wonders how long they will still be visible if left to their own devices. The paths weave through the mix of stones and the small trees are the only ones in this part of the city.

I've always loved history, and Boston is seeped in it. Normally my trips were for the science museum, or Mass General or something specific. This was one of the first times I really walked around an area of Boston, near Beacon Hill and the State House. After spending two days in an office floor, a very nice one, but still an office, feeling the earth and naturalness of a cemetery was refreshing. Many find cemeteries a bit disconcerting, and that's understandable. I cannot deny the peace I felt strolling along those paths, reading the old English spellings and observing people talking and consulting or just quietly standing. What draws people, probably headed home to dinner after their busy day, into this little sanctuary? I found myself gathering my own thoughts while wondering about the people buried here and those around me. We were all here for our own purposes and reasons. Twenty minutes later, I made my way out past the policeman and was hit by the blast of modern Boston. Out here the noise was pronounced, the occasional horn piercingly loud, the people rushing by, and the buildings that much taller.

I pushed back the desire to run back into the cemetery and made my way as quickly as anyone else to Park Street. Looking back at those two brief days in the state capital, that moment sticks out as the most personally valuable in my stay there. The time I spent reflecting on so many little things, gaining a sense of center, and marveling over the history beneath my feet was well spent. It does go to show what you can gain by taking a brief step out of the mainstream onto a smaller path. As Robert Frost said, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference."

— Tarsi Dunlop

Dual Homeowners Corner

The days are getting longer. The sun has been bright and beautiful and has encouraged the grass and trees and flowers to bloom. Tanglewood programs are beginning to arrive, and our sons are calling to tell us when they will arrive at Lake Buel. One granddaughter has already made plans to go to Camp Half Moon again this summer with one of her friends. Our dear friends are also scheduling visits to share this very special place with us. It has been part of our lives for more than fifty years. We also have many friends who live in the area year round. We cherish many wonderful experiences and have benefited from the special environment and sharing the experience with our children and grandchildren. This is an important part of our lives; we will soon be going home.

— Barbara Haver

Camp Half Moon

"The Best Little Camp in the Berkshires"
Since 1922

Day Camp & Sleepover Camp

528 0940 for Brochure & Video

Boys & Girls *Ages 3yrs ~ 15yrs*
Heated Pool & Private Skate Park on Beautiful Lake Buel
Safe, Structured, Nurturing Environment with Mature Staff
Riding, Team Sports, Tennis, Sailing, Gymnastics, Crafts, Drama, Waterskiing, Dance, Archery, Tutoring, Rafting & so much more!

www.camphalfmoon.com
P.O. Box 188, Great Barrington, Ma 01230

Gould Farm Products
at the
Roadside Store
& Harvest Barn

You come to our tables ... take us to yours!

Gift baskets available
Call 644-9718

Fear and Birch Bark

I heard about a woman who has finally gotten all the plastic out of her kitchen. Just think about this! No more spatula, only glass measuring cups, mixing bowls of ceramic or steel—what else? How about the gasket around the fridge door, and the fridge itself for that matter? How far has she gone, to remove plastic from the cooking and eating environment, and why has she done it?

I think I know why. She has read some of those articles about trace amounts of plastic in food and how it so closely mimics hormone receptor blockers that it interferes with the functioning of hormones in our bodies. It is a relatively new can of worms for scientists, to consider the effects of tiny amounts of chemicals as different from large amounts. We are used to thinking we can be safe if there is only a little bit, that it is amounts "*over* X parts per million" that we need to worry about. Now it turns out that teeny amounts behave differently in our bodies from the way large amounts do. Teeny amounts of female hormones produced while girls are approaching full-blown puberty cause growth of breast tissue. As the ovaries develop and produce more of these hormones, the growth of breast tissue stops. Small amounts of chemicals can be more dangerous than larger ones.

So this woman does not want any amounts of plastic molecules at all in her food. She figures this is one thing in her uncertain and frightening world that she can control. She may not be safe from much, but she will not get breast cancer from her own kitchen.

I can identify. I do not feel safe from much, but I am the decider in my garden. I have decided to rout out the plastic. For years I made cloches of gallon milk and cider jugs. I cut out the bottoms and used the rest of the jug as a little greenhouse over seedlings, to keep them warmer, moister, safe from big wind and hail. I refined the situation to include a cutworm collar made from a paper cup. I saved up and rinsed out paper cups from refreshment time at our monthly contradances. Every spring I got out the jackknife and cut the bottoms off hundred of cups so I could put a protective ring around my seedlings to keep the dread cutworms from lopping down little broccolis and beans.

Years went by, and I used these collars and cloches over and over. They began to break down. I'd be settling a milk jug around a tomato plant and it would suddenly shatter. Little bits of brittle plastic all over the place. By the next year or so there would be no sign of the bits. Where had that plastic gone? Into my precious organic garden, of course.

I took my collection of milk jugs to the dump for recycling. I am looking dubiously at glass jugs because a friend has a device that can cut the bottoms of those. But what about the cutworm collars? Turns out those paper cups are all lined with plastic, and when the paper melts away over time they leave behind a limp inner ring of thin plastic. I find myself picking them out of the garden, out of my compost pile. They look a little like, well, big fat short condoms with the ends cut off.

MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Service · 10 a.m.
in the Meeting House

Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

For Information and Assistance:
528-5850

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist

All phases of dentistry

528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

So this year I have gone into the woods to harvest some of Nature's Plastic: birch bark. I find that a dead branch about three inches in diameter is perfect. I score it right around, then again four inches away, then draw a vertical cut and peel off a fine collar. When I walk through the woods now I am looking for branches of a certain size that have been lying dead for a certain length of time. The bark will last even when the wood has turned to punk and melted away, kind of like the paper cups. The best bark for my purposes has not lain on the ground quite that long.

My use of birch bark makes me think of the Native Americans and early settlers here. They found paper birches six or seven feet in diameter and cut sheets of it twelve feet long and four feet wide. It was great for roofing, for making boats, and for all sorts of kitchen gear, including "makuks" for storing maple sugar.

My cutworm collars are crude things by comparison, but I love them. They keep my seedlings safe and make me feel better, too. I will probably die of something one of these days, but it won't be from wilted plastic paper cup liners, by golly. Thank you, Ma Nature.

— Bonner J. McAllester

Gile Real Estate

Your Vacation Home
Specialists in the Berkshires!

GILE Real Estate

Conveniently located on Route 8

Beth VanNess
Broker/Owner

PO Box 114, Otis, Ma 01253

Office: (413) 623-5839

TOLL FREE
(866) 623-BETH (2384)

E-mail
Beth@GileRealEstate.com
www.GileRealEstate.com

Bidwell House Interns

The Bidwell House Museum has selected the recipients of summer internships at the museum for the summer season. The following high school students have been selected: Morwenna Boyd of Beartown Mountain Road in Monterey; Astrid Brown of Sandisfield and New York City; Sarah Robinson of North Yarmouth, Maine; Dwight Kelly of South Lee; and Grace Mendel of Tyringham Road in Monterey. The students are from both public and private high schools in the area, and one is home-schooled.

Students will each spend two weeks in July and August in training as a museum guide. The Berkshire Taconic foundation has funded the internship for a second year, and each participant will be paid $200. The object of the high school program is for the interns to get a taste of life and work at a historic house museum in the Berkshires.

The Bidwell House is a colonial history museum housed in a 1750 Georgian colonial on 196 acres of preserved land in Monterey. Interacting with museum professionals, the interns will shadow seasoned docents in the first week of their participation and represent the museum for summer program events. They will be researching, using museum software, reading from the archives, collecting fees and registration information, and learning media and marketing techniques for a local nonprofit.

Museum Director Martha Dailey said of the internship program, "We are grateful to Berkshire Taconic for making this opportunity available for our high school students. Students will have a new awareness of the components of museum work, the importance of being stewards of a remarkable old house, the significance of conserving a colonial collection and land preservation. It is both refreshing and exhilarating to have so many talented young people interested in colonial history."

For further information about the Bidwell House, visit the web site www.bidwellhousemuseum.org or call 413-528-6888.

Monterey Community Center

The Town is still awaiting word from Town Counsel about the progress of the petition to Probate Court for clarification about where and what we can build on the Wilson McLaughlin property. While we wait, the Wilson McLaughlin House Committee is still meeting to consider options for the Community Center: what the town most needs, how much it might cost and how it should be built. It's a huge batch of questions!

— Joe Baker

SATURDAY, JUNE 9TH 9AM-NOON
Propagation of Outdoor Plants
with Sue Tarasuk of Snow Farm:
Learn to increase the number of perennials you have in your garden - without having to buy more! $25 per person includes plants and soil.

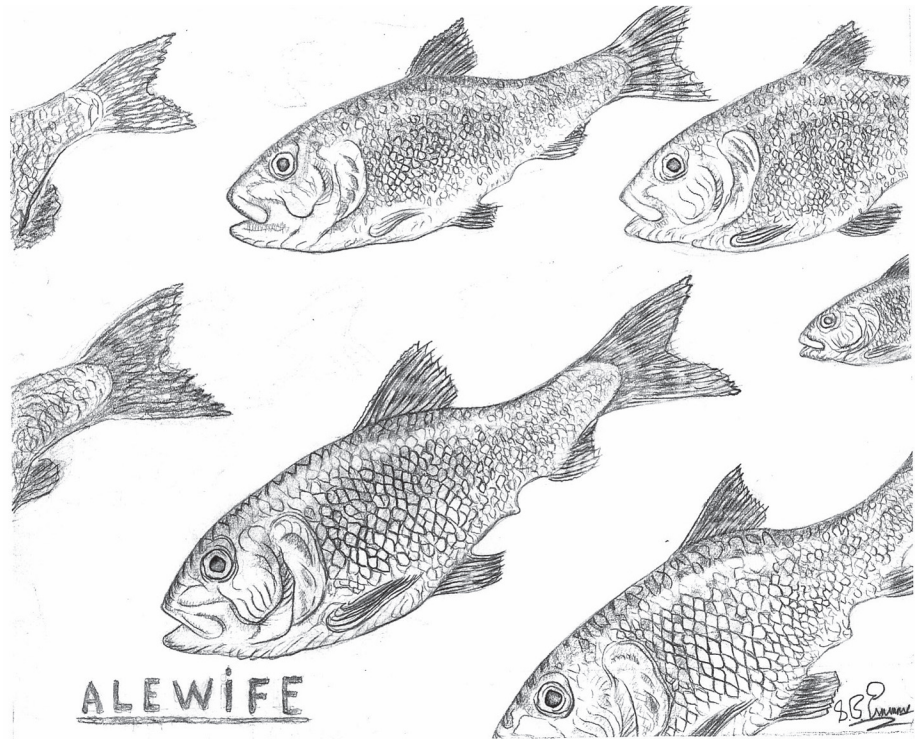
SUNDAYS IN JUNE 10:30-11:30AM - $5PP
Forum: Challenges to American Democracy in the 20th Century
JUNE 3: **FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CHALLENGES**
JUNE 10 : **POLITICAL DEMOCRACY IN DANGER**
WATERGATE AND THE IMPERIAL PRESIDENCY
JUNE 17 : **DEMOCRACY DENIED: UPENDING THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT**
JUNE 24 : **DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA**:Conclusion: We welcome short presentations or extemporaneous comments from the floor. Bill Cohn, Val Coleman and Audrey Manring will moderate and provide the framework for discussion.

THE SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER
413-258-4100
www.sandisfieldartscenter.org

The River of No Return

Hopefully not too late as a nation, we are engaged in a mighty battle to reverse the damage done during The Industrial Age! Ironically most of our New England rivers bear the names of Indian tribes that hunted and fished along their banks, or the names of early explorers, or the names of those in England. In colonial times few streams did not have abundant anadromous fish migrations, a bounty to settlers and Indians. The Pilgrims learned from the Wampanoags how to plant an alewife for fertilizer in the hill of the three sisters: squash, corn, and beans. After the winter of 1777–1778, it was the spring shad run that saved Washington's troops from starvation at Valley Forge.

The alewife is one of three species of herring (the Atlantic and the blueback are the other two). It has large eyes and a big belly, from which it gets its name. Biologists classify it as a small shad, which is a larger member of the herring family. Like the swallows of Capistrano, alewives appear in river mouths in June, in from the ocean, following the channels of the bays and homing in on the scent and biological content of brackish and then fresh water. They are driven by instinct as well as a biological clock of ripening roe and the urge to reproduce. Their battle has just begun, as has ours, to reclaim the waters

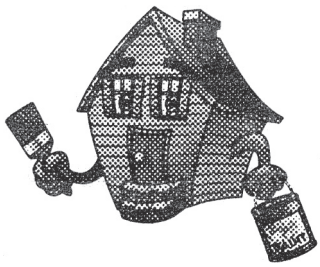


of ancestral heritage. Their journey must still overcome miles of spillways, rapids, and fish ladders over dams to reach the shallow and placid pools, perhaps those of their own spawning origin.

The alewife is a Federal Trust fish, meaning that the government has some responsibility for its recovery. Like the salmon, their numbers are greatly diminished due to overfishing, dams, pollution, and also predation. The Berkshire Fish Hatchery is now a partner with U. S. Fish and Wildlife in raising salmon for the Connecticut River Restoration Program. Thanks to Henry Bouchard, U. S. F. W. biologist and hatchery supervisor, as well as Tammy Ciesla, a Massachusetts State Wildlife Technician, the hatchery office building and the wildlife center are well stocked with information, fact sheets, displays, and reference books on all species of indigenous fish. There is even a fish hotline number, 413-548-9628, to get an updated report on the number of migratory fish, including striped bass and eels, that have been counted at stations of the Connecticut River.

A fish elevator at the Holyoke Dam gets them over this obstacle, and at Turners Falls Dam some are trucked and released upstream. However, there is still a long way to go, not only for our fish but also for ourselves. For those of us who grew up along a river and witnessed the migrations, the living waters flow through the veins of our environmental awareness. What we have done to our rivers is as unforgivable as taking land from the Native Americans, who thought of it as their mother. Today many of us have experienced the saying "You Can Never Go Home Again." Let's resolve to help fix the Rivers of No Return! Then the fish can go home again, and the rivers of our dreams will once again be the rivers of our youth.

— George Emmons



NEED A CARETAKER???

• Carpentry
• Painting
• Maintenance
• PropertyManagement

(413) 528-9789

Sam Roberts

Christopher Blair

DESIGN AND PLANNING

Residential Design
Kitchen/Bath Design

Construction Management
Project Representation

413.528.4960 32 Mahaiwe Street, Great Barrington, MA

My Experience of a Tourist Trap: Gator Park

In all my twelve years of life, I had never visited a "tourist trap." All that changed when I visited Florida over the spring vacation and we signed onto a tour that would allegedly take us to the Everglades. We discovered on the bus ride there that "the Everglades" did not entirely mean Everglades National Park. Truthfully, "the Everglades" meant Gator Park.

On the 45-minute travel to Gator Park, our resourceful driver informed us that we would experience a 45-minute airboat ride on our arrival. He explained that we would see "snakes, scorpions, and alligators!" After that, he pointed out, there would be 25 minutes of "live alligator wrestling at the arena" and a deluxe presentation of exotic wildlife featuring, again, "snakes, scorpions, and alligators!" Following this, we would have time to tour their "small alligator farm" and eat a "gourmet lunch in a tropical garden." According to the words entering our ears, we would also have time for fifteen minutes of shopping for "authentic native handicrafts."

As we entered Gator Park, we filed out to the "Okie-dokie!" voiced by our driver. We climbed into the first of a long line of airboats assembled by a lengthy dock and plunged into "nature's river of grass" (quote courtesy of Gator Park brochure).

As we set off through their trail network on this machine powered by a giant fan at the back, we quickly discovered the man who was to be our guide. He had wild eyes, a bushy beard, and a gruff voice that often shared crude jokes with us. First, we saw a crocodile. "Hey there, little FINGER BITER!!" he boomed. The multinational tourists snapped pictures like photographers gone mad. Next was a beautiful tropical bird, its feathers decorated with hues of purple and red. " BUUUUUHDYYY!" (buddy), the guide called. The bird fluttered over onto the tour guide's shoulder, inducing him to reply, "AH LOVE MA BURDS!" (I love my birds.) We would routinely speed up to well above 40 mph, causing the guide to whoop with apparent joy. Then we reached a shallow, muddy section of swamp and he slowed the airboat down, commencing to ramble on concerning "South Florida's Water Mismanagement."

The journey by water ended quickly. We saw no snakes or scorpions. Anyway, I had no time to consider this. Our rushed schedule had to continue. The time was ripe for "alligator wrestling at the arena." We walked briskly through Gator Park's official landowning (about ¾ of one acre) toward a grassy hut at one end. As there was a long line to get in, we surmised that this was indeed "the arena." Everyone piled in, making the atmosphere quite cramped. As people shifted around on the trio of wooden benches and complained, the "exotic wildlife show" began. In front of the benches, separated from us by a low fence, lay a sand pit, containing multiple cages and a dozing alligator.

First, the man pulled a small, relatively harmless scorpion (and the only one we ever saw) out of a cage. After showing it off, he reached into another cage, producing a skunk from the container's innards. He proclaimed that the skunk could spray directly into someone's eyes with "an accuracy of twenty feet." He then said, "Watch, I'll show you." Liquid spurted through the air. The crowd screamed in terror. When this quieted down, he held up a previously concealed water-squirting device, grinning sheepishly. The show went on as he showed us a large toad and a sad-looking wildcat from his other cages. The alligator snored placidly behind us. What about the "live alligator wrestling"? I thought. My internal question was soon answered. The man walked back to the sleepy alligator, held the reptile's jaws together nonchalantly, and picked him up.

The animal groaned. After about twenty seconds, he set the alligator down. Back to his comfort zone, the scaled one hissed softly. So much for my imaginings of a man flipping over a seething alligator in a combat ring. Not that I had been looking forward to that envisioning anyway.

The 25-minute show finished unimpressively. "Do you like snakes?" He asked. "YEAH!" The crowd roared. "Do you like BIIIG snakes?" "YEEAAHH!!!!" "Well," he said, "I haven't got any!" We filed out of "the arena" to visit the "small alligator farm." What we saw was a cramped, grimy pool housing three alligators.

Oh well. It was time to go eat the aforementioned "gourmet lunch" in the said "tropical garden." We ordered two hot dog meals, sitting down on a gum-plastered picnic table by the side of the dusty road. After ten minutes, our $14.00 lunch arrived. It came in a pair of Styrofoam containers that each held a hot dog, a bag of chips, and soggy, saturated three-bean salad. In the one-minute remaining to "shop for native handicrafts," we bought a $3.00 pencil. Now it was time to leave.

The oddest thing about the trip was our obvious enjoyment while it was going on. We never noticed how corny and cheap it was until we returned from our journey. Despite the awful time we had, it will produce laughs in years to come. Now we know not to make a second visit to Gator Park™.

— Jonah Carlson

SUSAN M. SMITH
Attorney At Law

32 Corser Hill Road
Great Barrington,
Massachusetts 01230

Telephone: (413) 229-7080
Facsimile: (413) 229-7085
Email: ssmithlaw@hughes.net

Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions in response to our annual funding appeal. Your support makes it possible for us to continue publishing.

Jean A. Spining
Martin Cherneff
Dr. Louis & Clare Rigali
Alan & Jane Salamon
Allan Dean & Julie Shapiro
Nancy Adams
Joseph A. Quagliata
Muriel Lazzarini
Gary & Linda Rosenberg
Frank Z. Ashen
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Wall
Leonard & Marion Simon
Chris Vlcek
Barbara S. Wilks
Sandra Preston
Alice O. Howell
Paula Leuchs Moats
Joseph & Rhonda Daponte
Richard & Martha Race
Sarah H. Bell
Marta & Gabe Starczewski
Adrienne O'Connell & E. John Branton
Kathleen Frome
Lauren Paul
Melvin & Katherine Kraft
Norma & Lou Kerlinsky
Gige O'Connell
Laura & Tom Mensi
Dr. John E. Hassett
Carol Husten
Marie Leuchs
Marc & Kathryn Roberts
Chris Blair
Paul Volckhausen
Robert Hudak
Stan & Gail Bulua
Marty & Janet Feldman
Helaine & Jerry Green
John & Sue Schmerler
Arthur & Joan Wing
Lee & Diedre Pachter
Joe Menker
Eileen Brennan
H. Lousie Burns
Louise Henry
Cathy & Buddy Rodgers
Ira Transport
Marvin Sachs
Rev. Arthur Monk
Charleen Lambert
Bruce & Marjorie Kashkin
David Perskie
Dorothy Seirup
Murray Bodin
George J. Crocco
Judith Kaminstein
Marianna Rotondo
Ann & Alvin Richmond
Ian Lindsay
Mary Brock
Elizabeth Shepard
Roger & Carol Kane
Keith Rosebrock
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Sable
Mrs. Helen S. Heller
Richard Farkas
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gelbard
Mr. Leo and Ms. Miriam Schreiber
Phyllis Bogdanoff
Jamie Moscowitz
Marjorie B. Perces
Michael Rood
Royal & Georgianna Shepard
Lynne Kwalwasser
Regina Pegorari
The Parkers
Melissa & Thomas Scheffey
Dick & Barbara Tryon
Joseph Levy
Lorna & Gene Bodian
Joan & Robert Calouri
Susan Kuder & Channing Mendelsohn
Leonard Weisman
Hy & Myrna Rosen
Nancy G. Torrico
Joan & Ed Schur
Gloria Wallick
Judy Greenwald & Robin Fried
Susan Bronson & John Sellew

Mad Scot
Small Engine Repair

Lawn Mowers
Tractors
Tillers
Chain Saws
Snowblowers

Many years' experience on all types of small engines.

Chains and blades sharpened.

Don Clawson
Box 26
Monterey 01245

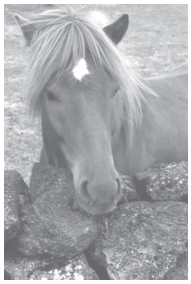
Pickup and delivery.
Local service.
Reasonable rates.

(413) 528-3257

Dennis J. Downing
Attorney at Law

17 Mahaiwe Street
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

Telephone: (413) 528-5040
Facsimile: (413) 528-5095
Email:dennis.downing@verizon.net



ROBERTS WOODS FARM
Icelandic Horses

Katherine Roberts
Breeder

P.O. Box 634 • 45 Art School Road
Monterey, MA 01245
413-528-6188 • Fax 413-528-6193
e-mail: rwfarm@vgernet.net

Mark & Phyllis Cash
Barbara Adams
Alf Pedersen
L. Barnett & I. Weitz
Mark S. Galkowski
Patricia B. Ryan
Beth Walsh
Nancy Kalodner
E. B. Williams
John S. Maxwell
Dorothy O. Beach
Jean Germain
Myrna & Robin Kruuse
Judy & Bruce Kaminstein
William & Dorothy Enlund
Alan & Christine Fliesler
Gerald Curtis
Daniel Menaker
Laurie & Gary Shaw
Susan Weiner & Christopher Aidun
Owen & Bebe Bernstein
Sheila Balch
Phyllis Epstein
William Maxwell
Nancy & David Brady
Willard Walher
Jane Volckhausen
Laury Epstein
Ellen Pearson
Leonard & Toby Friedman
Nanette Hucknall
Mickey Beller
Nancy Larkin & Irwin Goffman
John & Stella Bodnar
Rudy Gero
Virginia B. Funk

Judy & Ken Kalmanson
Len Mandile
Karen & Mel Selsky
Helen & Donald Kahaner
Robert Adams
Cliff & Jan Aerie
Joyce Lebenwohl
Gillian Ryan
Violet Hardisty
Carole & Gerry Clarin
Edwin A. Salsitz
Cos & Margery Spagnoletti
Donald H. Shaw
Michael & Sharon Feltser
Mayra Rodriguez
Arthur & Pat Carry
Jeff & Rachel Dolhanczyk
Marguerite Gulick
Frank & Julie Kern
Peter Kleben
Herbert Singer
Martin & Susan Hatch
Dorothea C. Mott
John & Cynthia Makuc
Pearl & Ron Gunther
Ann E. Canning
Ronald Langner
Hannah Weiss
Eve La Belle
Don & Kyle Pierce
Gerry & David Shapiro
Melanie Shepard
David Myers & Susan Cooper
Robert & Marjorie Brett Day
Stu & Phyllis Trott
Maurie Stiefel

Mickey Jervas
Scott D. Jervas
Mr & Mrs E. V. Cochrane
Judith Bach
Gail Kotler
William Bennett
Edward & Nadine Cohen
Kate Vallianos
Stanley & Eleanor Gradziel
Marjorie & Barry Jaffe
Carolyn & Maurice Mandel
Annette Samson & Louise Buonaguro
Liana Toscanini
Camp Half Moon
Evelyn & Sam Semaya
David Logan
Liz Garrigan-Byerly
Judy & Simeon Brinberg
Marilyn Rossier
Kathryn & Barry Karson
Lynn & John Seirup
Stuart & Elaine Edelstein
Mary Beth Lubeck
Maureen & Tom Haugh
Janet Garber
Anita Linden
Melissa Hamilton
Alvin Schneiderman
Richard & Patricia Schroeder
Don Victor
Peter & Evelyn Thomas
Susan Protheroe
Kenneth & Miriam Heyman

Century 21 Franklin Street Associates, Inc.

Dagmar Kubes, Assoc. Broker, ABR
Serving the sellers and the home-buyers in So. Berkshires

RESIDENTIAL LAND RENTALS

- Superior Real-Estate service according to your needs
- Century 21 Home Warrantee available to seller and buyer
- No obligation, FREE market evaluation of your home or land

Monterey: 413 528-6485
E-mail: dagmarrealty@verizon.net

Phil Cooley D/B/A

SATIN SMOOTH HOUSE PAINTING

P.O. Box 551
Otis, MA 01253
(413) 269-4725
Email: PCool01253@yahoo.com

A Leader in Berkshire House Painting

Spring Booking Now

"Known for Our Quality Craftsmanship"

Robert Hoogs
Richard Nault
Lois Bull
Matt Tannenbaum
Jeffrey Lombardo
Tom & Barbara Haver
Larry Heald & Debby Rankin
Ann M. Tarbell
Marianne & Richard Jaffe
Alice H. Allen
Gina Miller
Malinka Jackson
Dean Lombardo
Robert Donelan
Jane & Richard Perin
Karl & Shirley Quisenberry
Cathy Roth & Vicki Reed
Anna M. Cohen
Nancy Kleban
Jill Lawrence & John Martin
Alice Hanlon
Okerstrom-Lang Ltd.
Elizabeth Boulanger
Larry Webster
Barbara & Alphonse Antico
Joan & Mark Abramowitz
Janet McKee
Michael & Maureen Banner
M. I. Cake

Henry & Pauline Goldberg
Stuart & Lisa Auslander
Peter Bodnar
Bob & Barbara Gauthier
William & Ellen McKee
Maggie Leonard
Dan & Marcy Moriarty
Susan & Michael Johnson
Peggy Reeves
Robert Silman
Meredith & Lillian Oislander
Michael Salke
Jackie Smith & Ron McMahon
Alice Roth
Earl & Ruth Champigny
Judith F. Kaprelian
Susan & Norman Ladov
Wayne & Donna Burkhart
Clarence & Nancy Hall
Peter Lauritzen
Kay Purcell
Janet Ansbro
Peter Amidon
Donna Putrino
Mark L. Hariton
Suzanne Hoppenstedt
Mickey & Mike Freundlich
Alan & Erma Kranz

Community Dinner June 13

Despite poor attendance at the May Potluck Supper, we were treated to a lively discussion of the house, life, and times of Adonijah Bidwell by Martha Dailey, Executive Director of the Bidwell House Museum. Many thanks to Martha for her entertaining and informative presentation. The long-awaited beautiful spring weather on that day may have contributed to the small audience.

There will be a Monterey Potluck Dinner on June 13, the final one of the season. The season was extended by popular vote at the April Potluck, partly to include more of the second-home owners. Jeanette Maguire from North Egremont, a former fashion and set designer and a second generation Feng Shui consultant, will speak on the art of Feng Shui. For those who may not know, Feng Shui is a way of altering the energy in a house so that it helps it fit in with one's belief systems—"house therapy." It promises to be an exciting and enlightening evening.

The June 13th Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. All are welcome. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, a plate and silverware for yourself. Come and make new friends, bring your appetites.

— Kyle Pierce

Since 1982

Landscape Design

Stonemasonry

www.montereymasonry.com

WILLIAM BROCKMAN
REAL ESTATE

413-528-4859 **WWW.BERKSHIRESFORSALE.COM**

INFO@WILLIAMBROCKMAN.COM

BILL BROCKMAN 528-4859 TIM LOVETT 528-0644 DEBORAH LEVINSON 229-3990
CHAPIN FISH 258-4777 JENNIFER LALLY 229-2275 TOM LYNCH 518-325-0220

bed & bath

Microcotton towels, shower curtains, sheets, down, quilts and more…

SLIPCOVERS • LINENS
LT HOME
GREAT BARRINGTON
POTTERY & GIFTS

K-Mart Plaza Rt. 7, Gt. Barrington, MA
(413) 528-9737 www.lthomegb.com
Open daily except Tuesdays

Calendar

Friday, June 8: Astronomy night, 8 p.m. Meet in Meetinghouse Community Room. See p. 9.

Saturday, June 9: Jack Larkin, Old Sturbridge Village historian, speaks at 1:00 p.m., Bidwell House. See p. 12.

Sunday, June 10: Art of Pastel Workshop with Gregory Maichak, 1 p.m., Otis Town Hall. Call 413-269-0100 x 5.

Wednesday, June 13: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 p.m., Meetinghouse basement. Feng Shui talk. See p. 22.

Thursday, June 14: Free blood pressure clinic, 2–3 p.m., Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Saturday, June 16: Workshop on care of historic homes, 10:00 a.m., Bidwell House Museum. See p. 12.

Tuesday, June 19: Free health screening, Community Health program, 10 a.m.–noon, Town Hall Meeting Room.

Saturday, June 16: The Trillium Ensemble in concert, 8:00 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. See p. 9.

Saturday, June 23:

Bidwell Authors Series features local novelist, George Minkoff on his book *The Weight of Smoke,* telling the story of the Jamestown settlement. 1:00 p.m., Bidwell House Museum. See p. 12.

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Caller Ralph Sweet. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome. Adults $6, children $3. Information 528-9385.

Monday, July 2: Sisters in Crime: three mystery writers read and discuss their work, 7 p.m., Monterey Library. See p. 13.

Thursday, July 5: Free concert featuring John Sellew, Vikki True, and Bobby Sweet, 7-9 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. Sponsored by Monterey United Church of Christ to celebrate newly refurbished sanctuary. See p. 9.

The Observer
April 26–May 25

High temp. (5/11)	84°
Low temp. (5/4, 7, 14)	30°
Avg. high temp.	65.5°
Avg. low temp.	38.8°
Avg. temp.	52.2°
Total precipitation	2.69 in.

Precipitation occurred on 13 days.

Saturday, July 7: Popular storyteller John Porcino, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

The MONTEREY CULTURAL COUNCIL Presents

Astronomy Evening

Slide Lecture & Stargazing
ASTRONOMER RICHARD SANDERSON
June 8 • 8:00 PM
RAIN DATE: JUNE 9
MONTEREY CHURCH BASEMENT

Free Concert
TRILLIUM
Ensemble

SATURDAY
JUNE 16 • 8:00 PM
Monterey Church

Flash Fiction Workshop
Frank Tempone
WordStreet.org
TUESDAY
JULY 31/7-9 PM
Monterey General Store

THE MONTEREY GENERAL STORE
MUSIC NIGHTS
JUNE

TUESDAYS
5 JOANNE SPIES
12 OZONE PETE
19 JOEL BLUMERT
26 WRITERS WORKSHOP
NO COVER CHARGE
Music from 7—9
LIGHT DINNER AVAILABLE: 6—7:30
Info: 528-4437 • montereystore.com

FRIDAYS
1 KARL FINGER
8 JAZZ NIGHT
15 DAVID REED
22 MOONSHINE HOLLER
29 ROBIN O'HERIN
NO COVER CHARGE
Music from 7—9
LIGHT DINNER AVAILABLE: 6—7:30
Info: 528-4437 • montereystore.com

CHARLES J. FERRIS
Attorney at Law

500 Main St. Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
617 Main Rd. PO Box 63
Monterey, MA 01245
ADMITTED TO PRACTICE
IN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK

Free Consultation
on any Legal Matter

Evening and Weekend
Appointments Available

PHONE (413) 528-8900
FAX (413) 528-9132

CORASHIRE REALTY

Serving the Southern Berkshires since 1966

Nancy Dinan
Broker
413-528-0014

Deborah D. Mielke
Broker
413-528-1871

Fax 413-528-4809
corashire@aol.com
www.corashire.com

Rick Mielke

Seasonal Caretaking

Professional Year-Round Maintenance of Your House and Grounds

Celebrating over 30 years in business

528-0864

We Return Your Calls

Since 1975 • Fully Equipped • Fully Insured

P. O. Box 211, Monterey, MA 01245

Editor..... Will Marsh
Asst. Editor ..... Glynis Oliver
Reporter.....Maggie Leonard
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Mari Enoch

Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (e-mail or computer disk if possible) by the 20th of the month before publication, addressed to the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the *News* by mail (free) to same address. We will set up an ad for your Monterey-based business or event, or advertisers may submit a computer formatted ad (pdf, tif, or jpeg format—Word files not acceptable) with graphics. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montnews@localnet.com.

MONTERREY NEWS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PO BOX 9
MONTEREY, MA 01245

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Monterey, MA
Permit # 2

Copyright © Monterey News 2007
No portion of the *Monterey News* may be reproduced without permission.

Contributions from local artists this month:
George Emmons, p. 18; Bonner McAllester, p. 16;
Josefine Persson, 12, 18.

BIZEN
備前
Freshest Sushi Quality Fish • Organic Vegetables
Japanese Estate Sakes • Unfiltered Dessert Sakes
On the Cutting Edge
"Where to Eat Sushi" in the Berkshires.
The New York Times
Gourmet Japanese Cuisine & Sushi Bar
17 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, Mass.
413-528-4343
Lunch Mon.-Fri. 12:00-2:30; Sat. & Sun. 12-3:00 • Dinner 7 Days 5-10